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C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 001421

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/12/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [CU](#) [GT](#)
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA'S UNGA VOTING RECORD

REF: STATE 105117

Classified By: Pol/Econ Couns Drew Blakeney for reasons 1.4 (b&d).

(C) Visiting WHA/CEN Director Christopher Webster raised USG concerns about Guatemala's UN voting record, particularly on human rights issues, during his October 23 meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Lars Pira (reftel). Pira said that the new Human Rights Council's Periodic Review had rendered single-country rapporteurs obsolete. Guatemala hoped to influence Cuba's human rights performance by maintaining open, positive relations. Asked by Pol/Econ Couns what specific actions the GOG was taking to encourage Cuban compliance with international human rights norms, Pira responded that the GOG "was getting to know the Cuban Government, and hopes to mediate during the island's transition period."
McFarland